

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



September 28, 2001

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE I-80-01

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL WELFARE-TO-WORK COORDINATORSREASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE LEARNING DISABILITIES ADVISORY WORKGROUP
AND UPCOMING FORUMS FOR COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REFERENCE: ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICES (ACIN) I-116-00, I-43-00

The Learning Disabilities (LD) Advisory Workgroup has concluded its project to develop recommendations for helping California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) recipients with learning disabilities achieve self-sufficiency. The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) would like to express its sincere appreciation for the tremendous effort put forth by the workgroup over a yearlong period on this very important subject.

The Advisory Workgroup's task was to find ways, within existing State law and regulations governing the CalWORKs program, to readily identify CalWORKs participants with learning disabilities and to provide them with appropriate services and accommodations that will help them move towards employment and eventual self-sufficiency. The workgroup reached consensus on the following recommendations:

- 1) A definition of learning disabilities for the CalWORKs program;
- 2) A protocol for screening CalWORKs WTW participants for learning disabilities;
- 3) A protocol for referring CalWORKs clients with suspected learning disabilities for further evaluation, which includes a strategy for developing county LD resources; and
- 4) A plan for statewide "train-the-trainer" learning disabilities training of county welfare departments and/or their designated providers.

In addition, the Advisory Workgroup made a number of recommendations for changing existing CalWORKs policies and procedures to accommodate individuals with learning disabilities. The Workgroup's protocols and policy changes were strengthened to incorporate newly-released federal policy guidelines on the prohibition of discrimination based on disability issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights in January 2001. The final, approved protocols and policy changes are

discussed in detail in an All County Letter (ACL) that will be released at upcoming forums for county welfare directors.

Forums for County Welfare Directors

CDSS is pleased to invite the county welfare directors and their key staff to attend one of the two half-day forums where the major policy changes contained in the ACL will be presented. The forums will also provide a valuable opportunity for the welfare directors to gain some insights about learning disabilities, the federal civil rights laws that protect individuals with disabilities, and the potential impact of the new policy changes on their counties' CalWORKs operations. Featured guest speakers will include Glenn Young, Disabilities and Adult Education Specialist from the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. and county welfare department representatives from the Advisory Workgroup on Learning Disabilities.

The forums are scheduled from 9 a.m. to noon at the following dates and locations:

Sacramento:	October 22, 2001 Employment Development Department 722 Capitol Mall - Auditorium
Pasadena:	October 24, 2001 Pasadena City College Community Education Center 3035 East Foothill Blvd. – Multipurpose Room

Maps to the forums and names/telephone numbers of nearby hotels are enclosed for your convenience.

Additional Updates

Other related CDSS activities include the recent release of a Request for Proposal to contract with a qualified professional to provide 3-day learning disabilities training to the counties' training staff and designated providers at five regional locations. The deadline for submitting proposals is October 9, 2001, and the training will begin in January 2002 and conclude in early February 2002.

Additionally, CDSS and six volunteer counties are participating in a joint federal study sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education to validate various Spanish-language learning disabilities screening and evaluation tools. Dr. Daryl Mellard, the study's principal researcher from the University of Kansas, conducted in-state training for state and county staff this past

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summer. The six volunteer counties are Kern, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and Stanislaus, and they have recently begun the screening and testing process with a number of their Spanish-language clients. We sincerely appreciate the participation of these counties in this important project. The results from the study should be available in late 2002. More validation studies in other languages are anticipated in the future.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Suzanne Nobles, Chief of the Employment Bureau, at (916) 653-7103, or Yvonne Lee, Unit Manager, at (916) 657-5039.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By
Charr Lee Metsker on 9/28/01***

CHARR LEE METSKER, Chief
Employment and Eligibility Branch

Attachment

c: CWDA
CSAC

Hotels Near Training Sites in Sacramento and Pasadena

Sacramento Training Site: Employment Development Department Auditorium 722 Capitol Mall

- Holiday Inn Sacramento – Capitol Plaza
300 J Street
(916) 446-1011 or (800) 465-4329
- Hyatt Regency Sacramento
1209 L Street
(916) 443-1234 or (800) 233-1234

Pasadena Training Site: Pasadena City College Community Education Center Multipurpose Room 3035 East Foothill Boulevard

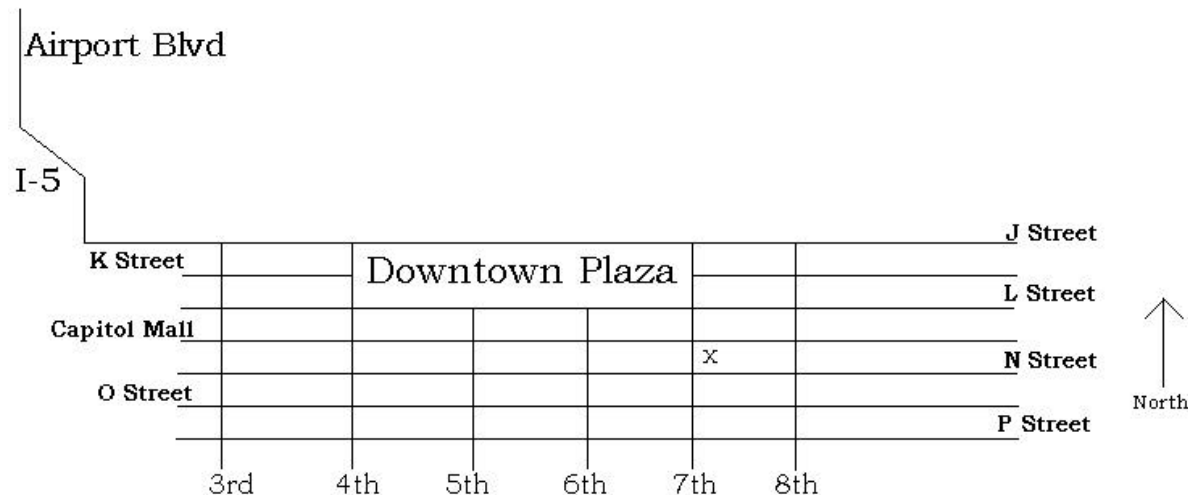
- Doubletree Hotel Pasadena – Plaza Las Fuentes
191 North Los Robles Avenue
(626) 792-3755 or (800) 222-8733
- Courtyard Hotel Los Angeles Old Pasadena
180 North Fair Oaks Avenue
(626) 403-7600 or (800) 236-2427
- Sheraton Pasadena Hotel
303 East Cordova Street
(626) 449-4000 or (800) 325-3535
- Hilton Pasadena
168 South Los Robles Avenue
(626) 577-1000 or (800) 445-8667
- Best Western Pasadena Inn
3570 East Colorado Boulevard
(626) 796-9100 or (800) 528-1234
- Best Western Pasadena Royale
3600 East Colorado Boulevard
(626) 793-0950 or (800) 528-1234

SACRAMENTO

(Map Not To Scale)

Location: Employment Development Department, Auditorium (First Floor)
722 Capitol Mall, Sacramento

Parking: Downtown Plaza underground lot - \$1.25/30 min or \$14.00/6 hrs
(3 hours of free parking with validation from Downtown Plaza merchant)



Directions From Sacramento International Airport:

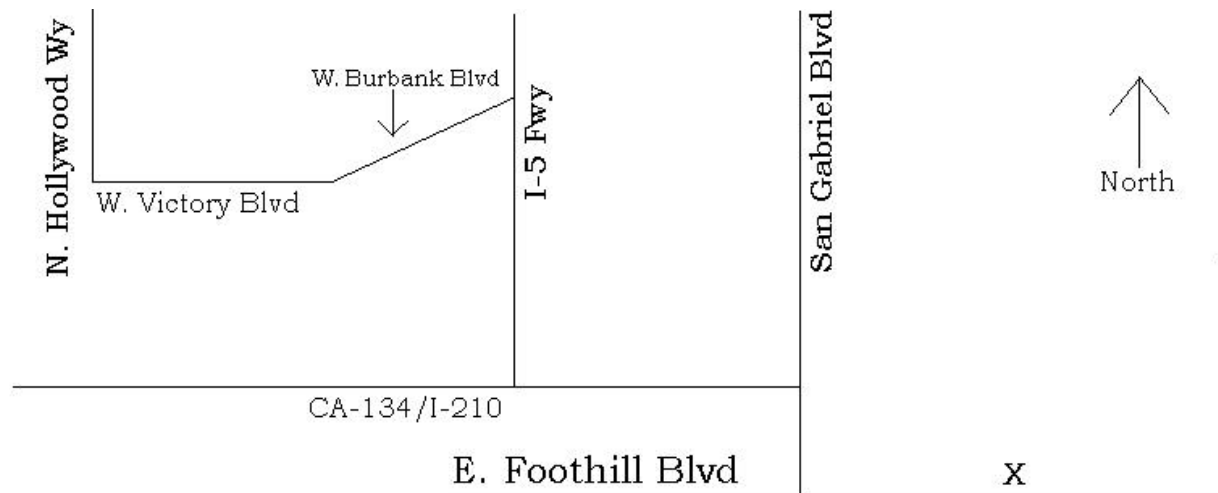
1. Take Airport Blvd Southbound
2. Take on-ramp to I-5 Fwy South – Sacramento/Yuba City
3. Exit onto J Street/Downtown
4. Turn right into Downtown Plaza for parking

PASADENA

(Map Not To Scale)

Location: Pasadena City College, Community Education Center, Multipurpose Room
3035 E. Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena

Parking: Parking lot behind the building – 75 cents per vehicle



Directions from Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport

1. Take N. Hollywood Wy Southbound
2. Turn left onto W. Victory Blvd Eastbound then veer left onto W. Burbank Blvd
3. Take on-ramp to I-5 S to Los Angeles and veer right on I-5 / Golden State Fwy
4. Exit I-5 / Golden State Fwy at CA-134 to Glendale / Pasadena
5. Veer left on CA-134 / Ventura Fwy
6. Continue on I-210 / Foothill Fwy (CA-134 East becomes I-210 East)
7. Exit onto San Gabriel Blvd Southbound
8. Turn left onto E. Foothill Blvd Eastbound for 1000 feet